

**Joint Resolution Opposing the Establishment of Education Scholarship Accounts  
and the Expansion of the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program**

**WHEREAS**, the Indiana General Assembly during the 2021 legislative session is considering the establishment of education savings accounts (ESAs), funneling state funding to parents who withdraw their children from public schools, as well as a significant expansion of the Indiana school choice scholarship program.

**WHEREAS**, education savings accounts give parents a portion of per-pupil state funding to spend like a taxpayer-funded debit card without necessary oversight of taxpayer funds.

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of the Indiana school choice scholarship program would direct additional resources to non-public schools that are not held accountable to taxpayers for the use of public funds.

**WHEREAS**, public funds should fund public schools, which are open to all children and fulfill a state constitutional duty.

**WHEREAS**, non-public schools lack fiscal transparency, public oversight, and taxpayer accountability.

**WHEREAS**, education scholarship accounts would be funded out of the K-12 tuition support appropriation at the expense of funding to support public schools.

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1005 creates an education scholarship account program called the “Indiana education scholarship account program” and Senate Bill 412 creates an education savings account program titled the “Indiana personalized education grant program”.

**WHEREAS**, this legislation would further erode the financial support provided to Indiana’s public schools, which serve over 90% of Indiana’s students, and diverts resources away from improving Indiana public school teachers’ salaries as recommended by the Governor’s Teacher Compensation Commission report, released on December 14, 2020.

**WHEREAS**, choice is already an option for Indiana parents due to the family-friendly public school transfer laws which already ensure children are no longer limited to zip code.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved, the school board of the Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community School District, the Garrett-Keyser-Butler Education Association, and the Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community School District opposes and condemns the establishment of education scholarship accounts and the expansion of the Indiana choice scholarship program as proposed by members of Indiana’s General Assembly in House Bill 1005 and Senate Bill 412. Approved this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

  
GKB CSD Board President

  
GKB CSD Education Association Co-President

  
GKB CSD Superintendent

  
GKB CSD Education Association Co-President